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1961/11/22

Viet-nam

(Taken from 11/22 week-end book)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~SECRET~~

November 22, 1961

MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WWR

SUBJECT: Viet-Nam.

1. I understand you wish assurance that the Jorden Report will only contain material for which we can vouch; and that it be neither inaccurate nor embarrassing in its references to Cambodia. I believe you can be assured on both points. (In addition, we are assembling for the record information from all sources -- including those we cannot publicly use -- on Hanoi's connection with the Viet Cong operation.)

2. When General Taylor and I were in Saigon, the MAAG Chief from Cambodia and an Embassy officer called on us and explained persuasively that Cambodia is not working with the Viet Cong; there were no permanent Viet Cong installations in Cambodia; but that Cambodian territory was being transited by infiltrating Viet Cong. In addition, Cambodian territory was sometimes used as a safe haven when the Viet Cong were under attack by GVN forces near the border. There was one substantial clash between Viet Cong and Cambodian troops. The Chief of the Armed Forces in Cambodia has asked our MAAG for increased money to help him build up his own troops in order to control better the Cambodian border areas now being transited.

3. On Tuesday night a full status report (Defense and State) on actions under the Viet-Nam program was forwarded to you with a covering memorandum reflecting supplementary items from General Taylor's staff and from me. If you don't have a chance to see it on Wednesday, it will be taken along for weekend reading.

4. As the Viet-Nam status report indicates, the earliest possible public release date for the Jorden Report is December 1 -- a week from Friday. It should be possible to meet that date.

5. General Taylor showed me the cable from Ken Galbraith. There are a number of observations I might make; but I think it wiser to await his promised letter.

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E.O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 5(D)
Archivist of the U.S. NLK-75-158
By MFD, NARS Date 5/19/76

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